

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Applicants submit this paper in response to the office action dated October 3, 2003. In the office action, the examiner entered a restriction requirement as follows:

Group I: claims 6-10, 19-24, 34-37, 49-54, 59-61, 71-75, 84-87 and 97-100

Group II: claims 55-58, 62-70, 76-83 and 88-96.

The Office Action defines Group I as a positive mask scheme and Group II as a negative mask scheme.

In response, Applicants elect to prosecute Group I without traverse. However, it is respectfully noted that the Examiner has included claims 59-61, 71-75, 84-87, and 97-100 in Group I even though such claims explicitly recite "a negative mask scheme." As such, the Applicants have canceled these claims and will pursue such claims with Group II as it is assumed the Office Action intended such claims to be properly included in Group II. If the Examiner actually intended such claims to be included in Group I, notice is requested in the next action so that the claims may be added back to the pending application.

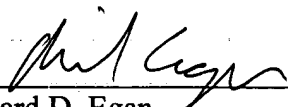
Please cancel Group II, claims 55-58, 62-70, 76-83 and 88-96 without prejudice. Further, please cancel claims 59-61, 71-75, 84-87 and 97-100 as properly being included in Group II.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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